

OUTREACH 2005



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY 23RD

CSD 12 PROGRESS REPORT

A Week in Review

Introduction:

As week one of CSD-12 draws to a close, it is time for some reflection on the new structure and organisational work programme of the Commission. In doing so, some key questions beg to be asked - is the new format effective in enabling a comprehensive review of implementation, identifying challenges, obstacles and constraints as well as lessons learned and recommendations for the implementation of sustainable development agreements, and in particular those related to the thematic cluster of issues - water, sanitation and human settlements. Are we learning from one another? Are we hearing about and responding to each others implementations experiences? Are we being honest in the challenges and obstacles that we have faced, and are we, most of all being interactive in our dialogue?

To facilitate this review, and to ensure the meaningful participation of all sectors of civil society a new model of dialogue, experience sharing and capacity building has been adopted at CSD, with a suit of activities taking place each day. Formally these include; interactive sessions on water, sanitation and human settlements, the partnership fair, the learning centre and exhibitions all which run concurrently. Also included in the activities of daily life are side-events providing the usual opportunity for the profiling of experience and interactive dialogue between stakeholders and governments. This new model has something for everybody. There needn't be a quiet moment in your day. Whilst such a plethora of activities is welcomed - rumblings of too much to do have been heard in the corridors.

So, in our reflection - let us begin with the formal review sessions - or interactive discussions on water, sanitation and human settlements. The look of exasperation on the face of delegates on Monday morning, when faced with the thought of having to be 'interactive' was something to behold. We are after all creatures of habit, and unfortunately for most our habit is to become - as soon as possible - entrenched in textual negotiations. But this was not to be

the case at CSD-12. With some gentle - or not so gentle persuasion in some cases - delegations have broken out of their negotiating shackles - and have discovered their ability to talk outside of the brackets. With the acceptance of a few relapses - as the week has drawn on the sessions have become increasingly interactive, and with it, increasingly interesting. Strong Chairing is applauded for bringing about this reform, and it seems to be working. Experiences at the national, local and regional level are being shared, allowing common obstacles to be identified, and possible solutions to these identified through the successful programmes of other countries.

The partnership fair is new to the activities of CSD. The mere fact that the fair was over subscribed is a clear example of its value in enabling the vast array of partnership initiatives launched at Johannesburg, and following, to showcase their programmes, discuss with others their implementation experiences, and build alliances and networks with alike

initiatives. Despite the clear energy and enthusiasm that remains around the development of partnerships as an implementation tool, concerns around their use are becoming increasingly audible within the corridors and within the conference rooms. An explicit example of this concern was expressed with a request being made by the Indian delegation for a report on the

partnerships that UN Agencies are involved with, and the level of funds that are being allocated to these. This request stems from a concern - expressed by a range of delegations that partnerships distracting government and agencies resources away from core implementation activities, rather than attracting new and additional funding. This is an issue which needs to be addressed over the coming week.

The learning centre, whilst a good idea, has not been well attended during the first week. The question needs to be asked - why not? It is not that the sessions are poorly run, and it is not that the subjects are not of interest, and it can't be because of a lack of need for capacity building, after all these words are amongst the most common when we take about how to improve implementation of sustainable

(Continued on page 2)



development agreements. No - it is more likely that delegates and stakeholders do not see the direct relevance of the topics being covered in the learning centre to their experiences. So how do we overcome this? One solution may have been provided by the US delegation. Based on the assumption that Regional Implementation Forum will take place during the policy year, it is recommended that we take from the regional experiences the gaps in implementation experience and address these in the learning centre during the CSD.

Aside from whether the structure of the CSD is working - reflection is warranted on some of the key issues which will require further deliberation in the second week. These included National Sustainable Development Strategies/Poverty Reduction Strategies; the future use of Regional Implementation Forums; The cross-over between CSD-12 and CSD-13 the function of the CSD in the review of the Millennium Development Goals. These are no small issues, and will require significant discussions to ensure the delegates leave CSD feeling satisfied that we are achieving our objectives in enabling effective solutions to be developed on the basis of a comprehensive review.

Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future

EDUCATION

Engaging Debates or Debating Engagement

On the wall in the reception area of UNICEF is a quote, "The world was not given to us by our parents... It was lent to us by our children." At CSD 12 we have had two models emerge that point the way to things to come in '05. The first is the UNICEF approach to rights based development and its emphasis on low-cost, effective and sustainable approaches in addressing issues of water and sanitation, and hygiene, the WES initiative. The second emerged from debating engagement during the SIDS informals.

Environmental degradation is among the most difficult and complex problems ever faced by modern society. We have come to recognize the laws of nature are non negotiable and setting a course for global sustainability is essential for the long-term survival of the planet. No other problem during the 20th century has mobilized the public and private sectors worldwide in such a short time.

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The current demographic calculations show that over the next twenty to forty years there will be more urban environment created than in all prior history. In its patterns of land use, energy consumption and production, congestion and in the lifestyles it perpetuates, the rapid growth of the world's cities and the need to design sustainable urban systems have consumed nation's development politics. The efforts to implement targets and goals for water and its linkages to sanitation and human settlements depends to a great extent on how rapidly and effectively organizations of all kinds respond, which is to say how well and how quickly they learn. Progress in understanding sustainable systems and acting on these learning's requires collaboration and interaction between concerned stakeholders.

The work accomplished during the SIDS strategy meetings reflect the intent of the new framework of the CSD. The education chapters point to a maturation in our ability to engage in debate and move the agenda forward in a meaningful way. We are beginning to become a learning organization. We are learning about the context in which the sustainable development agenda becomes meaningful, in this case SIDS. We are beginning to rethink our implementation strategies relative to the larger aim of human ecological health. The efforts within CSD 12 are shifting in ways that does not cast a long shadow on the human future but are changing how the institutions of governance work.

We are now engaging in debates around sanitation and human settlements. The SIDS implementation strategy has presented us with a model for debating engagement. It set a tone focused on the participation of all concerned stakeholders. It emphasized strengthening the capacity of civil society to participate in and act on principles of sustainability. SIDS priorities highlighted the means to build and promote sustainable livelihoods and comprehensive universal primary education...going beyond gender definition to include the disabled and indigenous peoples. The framework is to build capacity by integrating by integrating national sustainable development strategies and Environmental education within the education systems. Mainstreaming sustainable development into within these systems and building appropriate infrastructure for improved access to and quality in education. Support will come from regional environmental organizations, as well as international and regional organizations, especially from UNESCO. An important question arises, "How can the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development support the SIDS implementation strategy?" Taking an old axiom, "Think Globally, Act Locally", the work of CSD 12 is actually, "Think Locally, Design Globally" creating enabling environments - influencing policy and priority-setting at the country, district and community levels while integrating our learnings into our global initiatives.

As a cross cutting issue, the Education Caucus suggests:

"Our work on the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements, demonstrates that one of the greatest challenges facing the CSD process is staying on top of what we need to know in order to act strategically. Indeed, one of the greatest challenges facing the implementation of Agenda 21 is staying abreast of evolving, strategic approaches to sustainability. Education was deemed a cross-cutting issue in the CSD Multi-year Plan of Work and educators received consultative status at CSD 11. What we need to know now is how -- "engaging people in sustainability" -- will be integrated into the policy debates.

Education is the common ground for all stakeholders. We are asking for clarification regarding the implementation of this strategy in the CSD Plan of Work 2004-2017.”

Pam Puntennay, Education Caucus

disappointments of those stakeholders whose views and priorities were not fully addressed by the PB process. Finally, it was emphasized that PB should enhance and not attempt to replace representative democracy.

In general, most participants wanted to learn more about how to develop/ initiate governance improvement programmes, especially in those cities and countries where decentralization processes are not well-entrenched. Participants also expressed a keen interest in different kinds and levels of follow-up to the learning session, especially:

- adaptation of tools to local context;
- scaling up of training and capacity-building efforts; and,
- operationalization of tools through governance support programmes and activities of national as well as other international agencies.

Habitat

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report on UN-HABITAT Learning Event Urban Governance Tools to Support Sustainable Urbanization

The learning event on “**Urban Governance Tools to Support Sustainable Urbanization**” was organized by UN-HABITAT’s Global campaign on Urban Governance, with the objective of disseminating and sharing the wide range of urban governance tools developed under the umbrella of the Campaign, with urban stakeholders, practitioners and experts. The session aimed to build on the broad global acceptance that good local governance is a prerequisite for sustainable urbanization, and that the relationships between the local government, the private sector and the civil society can greatly enhance or obstruct sustainable development initiatives.

The three-hour session was attended by about 50 participants representing local and national governments, civil society organizations, international NGOs, development practitioners and academia. The presentations focused on the tools developed by the Governance Campaign to help promote inclusiveness and good urban governance across the globe, especially those related to the Urban Governance Index, Transparency and Participatory Budgeting.

The discussion on the **Urban Governance Index** centered around two key themes. The first related to the issue of process versus outcome indicators, and the need to use the Index as a complementary tool to other indicator systems. The second set of issues raised dealt with specific indicators, their significance, allocation of weights etc. Indicators that generated lively debates included those related to resource mobilization, proximity of elected leaders to urban populations, and effectiveness of implementation of various sectoral policies.

The presentation on **Transparency in Local Governance** led to discussions on the tools, the case studies as well as the potential strategic entry points for initiating transparency programmes. The importance of Ethics and an Ethical ambience was widely discussed, as well as issues of conflict of interest and institutional reform. Participants shared examples from their own contexts – for instance, from India, South Africa and Ireland.

The **Participatory Budgeting (PB)** presentation was received with keen interest by the participants. There were a number of questions on the PB cycle and the details of steps involved. An important issue raised was on the ultimate accountability in the PB process, and whether it rests with the stakeholder representatives or the municipal body. Participants also wanted to know how to avoid

SIDE EVENT REPORT

Making Every Drop Count

The ‘Making every drop count’ side event focused on how ODA can be made more effective through better donor coordination (at country and international level) and better targeting of aid to the most needy.

Responses to the report were generally very positive. Surprise was expressed from the floor that given the importance of these issues to meeting the water and sanitation target, they had not been previously comprehensively researched.

There was a consensus amongst most donors present that coordination at country level is vital for aid effectiveness, there was not agreement on the preferred mechanism. Making Every Drop Count recommends the Sector Wide Approach as the most effective, as it is country driven and encourages the involvement of all stake-holders. Uganda has had particular success with this approach.

PRSPs were repeatedly raised by donors as central to solving both targeting and coordination of aid. However, given that currently very few countries have prioritised WSS in their PRSPs or equivalent strategies, here lies a major obstacle to progress.

A panellist noted that ODA on its own was not enough to meet the targets and therefore it was essential for it to play a catalytic role in mobilising other resources at country level. The authors agree with this analysis and believe that money spent on community level initiatives is most likely to produce additional resources. In 1999 – 2000, 60% of ODA is spent on 0.05% of projects ie. Large-scale systems predominate.

Tearfund

Major Group Positions

As promised, the final Group's Position. This should give governments all the more opportunity to incorporate those recommendations into their Ministerial positions in the second week. Happy to be of assistance.

Trade Unions

1. *A clear link between poverty alleviation and decent employment.*

Vision, political will and available capacity must be brought together to develop guarantees of decent work for the millions of workers who live in poverty and exclusion.

2. *A stronger commitment of the CSD to the goal of decent work.*

This CSD review must confirm that poverty eradication depends on the creation of not just any work; the work must be of acceptable quality, allowing people dignity and self fulfilment.

3. *The value of joint action by building on occupational health and safety.*

Trade Unions and employers have developed extensive capacity for dialogue, cooperation and negotiations which can be extended to social and environmental questions.

4. *Human health & sanitation and the HIV/AIDS - water connection.*

As trade unions at all levels are now sponsoring hundreds of projects and campaigns to combat HIV/AIDS, global unions have started an international mapping exercise to catalogue who is doing what and where.

5. *Consensus in workplace and community*

Codes of conduct, consultation agreements, new strategies for the representation of the workers and the creation of international networks represent new avenues for enlarging relationships between industry leaders and trade unions.

6. *A commitment to freedom of association and individual rights.*

We believe that progress comes about when people are involved in their own development and defence of their own interests.

7. *Public provision and regulation in water, sanitation or human settlement.*

Capital markets have now become more creative in devising new mechanisms for investment. The role of the private sector in general must be more clearly defining.

8. *True partnerships for vital services*

Workers in industrial plants are the ones best able to assess and find solutions to unsustainable patterns of industrial consumption and pollution of water and sanitation. There is every reason to consult them.

9. *Instruments of social protection and justice*

Sourcing companies should require that suppliers and subcontractors observe minimum internationally recognised labour standards. Where companies use a code of conduct to implement this strategy, they should use ICFTU/GUF *Basic Code of Conduct covering Labour Practices* as a basis.

10. *Instruments of social protection and justice*

The CSD must ask for greater coherence and uniformity in the myriad of standards, procedures, and programmes, for stronger regulatory regimes nationally and internationally to re-establish standard setting and administration as core government functions.

11. *Addressing discrimination, exploitation and exclusion of vulnerable groups.*

Children everywhere, boys and girls alike, must be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and have equal access to all levels of schooling. This review must therefore call for greater content and support for efforts to provide the vulnerable groups everywhere with the keys to a sustainable future.

12. *Multilateral institutions and instruments in the social dimension.*

A priority must be the forging of a broad political consensus as the basis for a democratic system of governance, in which there is respect for fundamental rights of workers and citizens. For this to occur, global institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and WTO must cooperate more closely with the ILO and the rest of the UN system, to ensure that trade and natural resource play a positive role.

13. *Defining a leading role for Governments in sustainable development.*

A reasserting of the role of government could only invigorate our common efforts to achieve sustainable development on behalf of the human beings who inhabit this globe.

Scientific & Technology Community

Specific recommendations resulting from a review of science and technology issues related to freshwater, sanitation and human settlements are the following:

- Review, maintain and most often improve national data collection/monitoring networks, including those that provide real-time data for floods and drought forecasting;
- Strengthen the freshwater-related components of global environmental observing systems and make these systems fully operational, including enhanced support for efforts aimed at implementation of observing systems such as the Integrated Global Observing Strategy and the proposed Integrated Earth Observation System or Systems;
- Undertake national, regional and international integrated assessments on water and related sanitation and human settlements issues;
- Review, develop further and apply respective integrated indicator sets;

- Review, develop further and apply more appropriate water and sanitation technologies;
- Develop and undertake interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research at the national level focussed on sustainability issues related to freshwater, sanitation and human settlements addressing the local context;
- Support international scientific cooperation programmes in this field and knowledge sharing;
- Invest in relevant scientific and technological capacity-building at the national level and support respective measures in those developing countries which lack this capacity;
- Contribute to rethinking and reorienting water education and all levels;
- Enhance specialised training facilities everywhere but in particular in developing countries;
- Ensure high-priority attention to freshwater, sanitation and human settlements in the activities of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;
- Pay particular attention to education and training for girls and women.

Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous self-determination and rights to water

Government should support the immediate adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which will help ensure the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

Human rights to water

Governments must recognise and adopt policies of water as a human right that entitles everyone to safe, sufficient, affordable and physically accessible water for personal and domestic use.

Participation, consultation and prior informed consent

Governments must ensure public participation in all aspects of water management and decision-making, particularly the participation of indigenous peoples when there are indigenous communities within water management areas.

Human Settlements

The development of action plans on human settlements and in the implementation of integrated land use planning and integrated resource base management strategies must be strengthened to provide security of tenure and legal protection of indigenous peoples land and territories.

Water and Sanitation

Developing and developed countries with indigenous tribal populations must develop and strengthen clear policies, targets and institutional frameworks to improve sanitation, assure safe and adequate water supply and access and hygiene services to indigenous peoples.

Dams and water diversion

Governments, international financial institutions, bilateral donors and the private sector should cease promoting water mega-projects without reference to international agreements and must always incorporate the recommendations of the World Commission on

Dams into water and energy planning processes, including reparations.

Climate and Water

It is imperative for States to fulfil the mandates of the UNFCCC and to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Governments must end financial subsidies to fossil fuel production and processing and for aggressive reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Ecological approach to water management and indigenous traditional ecological knowledge

Implementation should be carried out using an ecological approach that incorporates indigenous traditional ecological principles to water management. Both the ecological approach and traditional ecological knowledge integrates different perspectives into integrated management of land, forests, oceans, air, human settlements and water resources.

Privatisation and commodification of water

Water and water services must be kept out of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, WTO and other multilateral and regional trade agreements.

Government and corporate accountability

Political, technical and legal mechanisms on the domestic and international level should be developed so that the States, as well as transnational corporations and international financial institutions are held accountable for their actions or inactions that threaten the integrity of water, land, air, biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities.

Governance

Developing countries need to take primary responsibility for establishing good water governance and water management plans, and to ensure that water is integrated into national poverty reduction strategies.

Developed countries, with indigenous peoples, need to take primary responsibility for establishing good water governance and water management plans to indigenous communities and poor communities.

Financial and investments

Governments must recognise the importance of providing support to small-scale local investments, by local authorities, indigenous communities and with the support of NGOs. Regulations of multilateral financing agencies do not allow lending to local governments and indigenous communities therefore requiring mechanisms for direct support to local levels and indigenous communities.

Capacity building and technology transfer

Governments must recognise the need for utilising technologies such as rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, crop rotation and other indigenous knowledge and sustainable water conservation practices within current farming methods.

Extracts drawn from the discussion papers submitted by major groups.

SIDE EVENT

WATER THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES:

The Gender, Water and Poverty Connections



Monday, April 26th, 2004

1:15 - 2:45pm

Conference Room D

Chair:

Irene Dankelman

WEDO and University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Speakers:

Ethne Davey

Gender and Water Alliance- South Africa

Elizabeth Peredo

Fundacion Solon - Bolivia

Svitlana Slesarenok

Mama-86 - Ukraine

For more information contact: Marcela Tovar (marcela@wedo.org)

Co-organized by:

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Attack



Kimble, Attack



Taylor, Defence



Verhej, Playmaker



Coach Upton



Hales,
Defence



THE ANDREY FILES



While lost deep in the UN basement, an Outreach team member stumbled across a box of files marked:

A.Vasiliyev - Country Files: TOP SECRET

Next week Outreach will be publishing select extracts from these files...roll on Monday!



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WEDNESDAY'S DIARY

Time	Event and Location
10:00-11:30	Partnership Fair: Presentations: Water and Sanitation Partnerships
10:00-1:00	CR 1: Human Settlement Discussion
10:00-1:00	CR 2: Continued Sanitation Discussion
10:00-1:00	Learning Center: Restoring Urban Waterways
11:30-1:00	Partnerships Fair: Interactive Discussion: Partnerships for Water and Sanitation
1:15-2:45	CR 1: The Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON)
1:15-2:45	CR D: Global Forum on Women and Sustainable development
1:15-2:45	CR 6: Global Sustainable Energy Island Initiative
1:15-2:45	CR 2: Sustainable Development Law: Intersections, Issues, and Instruments
3:00-4:30	CR 1: Region UN ECA
3:00-6:00	CR 2: Human Settlements
3:00-6:00	Partnership Fair: Presentations
3:00-6:00	Learning Center: Integrated Water Resource Management
4:30-6:30	Statements: Overall Review
6:15-7:45	CR 6: Poverty Knowledge - The use and reconstruction of bio-cultural diversity (to manage water and resources) to eradicate povert
6:15-7:45	CR 1: Results from the multi-stakeholder Global Water Scoping Process
6:15-7:45	CR 2: Sustainable Consumption and Production
6:15-7:45	CR D: Reforming the Sustainable Development for Tomorrow

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